

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153112

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LIMDIS - LONDON FOR TOON, SHULMAN, VEST AND LUERS ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, EEWT, UR, US

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION IN CASE OF INTERNA-
TIONAL HARVESTER REPRESENTATIVE CRAWFORD

REF: MOSCOW 13756

1. IN YOUR CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES RECOMMENDED IN
REFTEL, WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATED TO LONDON, YOU SHOULD BE
AWARE OF FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS HERE:

--AFTER RECEIVING GREEN LIGHT FROM SOV, TRADE AND ECONOMIC
COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAL SCOTT HAS URGED DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER
SHUKHKOV TO EXPRESS HIS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER CRAWFORD
ARREST TO MOSCOW. WE UNDERSTAND SHUSHKOV HAS DONE SO.
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--WE ARE WORKING WITH TREASURY ON AN APPROACH BY SOLOMON
TO VERIFY ALONG LINES RECOMMENDED PARA 2A.

--WE ARE RECOMMENDING THAT MRS. KREPS AND SOLOMON RAISE
MATTER WITH CHEMICALS MINISTER KOSTANDOV AND SHUSHKOV WHEN
THEY MEET THEM JUNE 20. WE UNDERSTAND SHULMAN INTENDS TO

DO THE SAME AT HIS MEETING WITH SHUSHKOV ON THE SAME DAY.

--A NUMBER OF FIRMS (E.G., INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, PANAM, IBM) ARE ALREADY MAKING HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SOVIETS. DEPARTMENT IS ENCOURAGING THEM TO DO SO, AND TO PUBLICIZE THEIR PROTESTS, BUT WE ARE TAKING CARE NOT TO BE SEEN AS ORCHESTRATOR OF THIS PROCESS (WHICH SEEMS TO BE OCCURRING SPONTANEOUSLY ANYWAY).

--WILLIS ARMSTRONG, WHO IS NOW IN WESTERN EUROPE, IS AWARE OF CRAWFORD ARREST, AND PLANS TO URGE PARTICIPANTS IN JUNE 26-27 ICC MEETING TO RAISE IT WITH SOVIETS.

2. WE ARE REVIEWING RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARA 3 REFTEL WITH OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES. WE WILL AWAIT THE RETURN OF THE SECRETARY BEFORE GIVING EMBASSY MOSCOW OUR RESPONSE. OUR PRELIMINARY REACTION IS THAT WHILE SOME OF THESE STEPS MAY BE APPROPRIATE (FOR EXAMPLE, DEFERRING THE REQUEST TO TRANSFER PERSONNEL FROM AMTORG TO BELARUS MACHINERY, ON GROUNDS THAT THIS IS A POOR TIME FOR THIS IN VIEW OF CRAWFORD ARREST), OTHERS WILL WARRANT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BECAUSE THEY LEAD, IN THE PRESENT CHARGED ATMOSPHERE, TO RAPID ESCALATION OF RETALIATION AND COUNTER-RETALIATION. A CONTINUING SPIRAL COULD DAMAGE BROADER INTERESTS AND BE DIFFICULT BOTH TO STOP AND TO UNWIND LATER ON. CHRISTOPHER
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